

film, wrapping the film around a forming shoe, sealing the film to form a backseam, and forwarding the film. Support for these steps can be found at Page 45 lines 3-13 and Page 27 lines 22-29. The first layer of the film is an inside layer of the casing, and comprises an acid copolymer and/or an anhydride-containing polyolefin. The second layer consists essentially of polyester and/or polyamide. The third layer is an outer casing layer, and comprises a polyolefin, polystyrene, and/or polyamide. The second layer is between the first and third layers, and the second layer has a thickness of at least 5% of the total film thickness. Support for the various film layers can be found at, for example, Page 5 line 17 through Page 6 line 2.

Support for Claim 30 can be found at, for example, Page 6 line 26.

Support for Claim 31 can be found at, for example, Page 6 line 19.

Support for Claim 32 can be found at, for example, Page 6 lines 8-11.

Support for Claim 33 can be found at, for example, Page 6 lines 26-28 and Page 23 lines 24-26.

Support for Claim 34 can be found at, for example, Page 6 lines 3-7.

Support for Claim 35 can be found at, for example, Page 6 line 30 through Page 7 line 2.

Support for Claim 36 can be found at, for example, Page 6 lines 3-7.

Support for Claim 37 can be found at, for example, Page 7 lines 3-7.

Support for Claim 38 can be found at, for example, Page 7 line 7.

Support for Claim 39 can be found at, for example, Page 7 lines 8-13.

Support for Claim 40 can be found at, for example, Page 5 lines 28-29.

Support for Claim 41 can be found at, for example, Page 7 lines 27-30.

Support for Claim 42 can be found at, for example, Page 6 lines 19-23.

Support for Claim 43 can be found at, for example, Page 7 lines 30 through Page 8 line 1.

08/968,016

Support for Claim 44 can be found at, for example, Page 8 lines 1-2.

Support for Claim 45 can be found at, for example, Page 8 lines 3-4.

Support for Claim 46 can be found at, for example, Page 24 lines 3-4.

Support for Claim 47 can be found at, for example, Page 8 lines 3-4.

Claim 48 recites a package comprising a cooked meat product within a backseamed casing comprising a casing film, with the cooked meat product adhered to the meat-contact surface of the casing film. Support for this portion of Claim 48 can be found in the specification at, for example, Page 8 lines 8-11. The casing film is the same as recited in Claim 29. Thus, support for Claim 48 includes the support for Claim 29 as discussed above.

Support for Claim 47 can be found at, for example, Page 7 lines 27-28.

Claim 48 recites a process for making a backseamed casing which is the same as Claim 29 except that the first outer layer is recited as comprising a first polyolefin and the first outer layer has a surface energy level of less than about 34 dynes/cm. Support for Claim 48 can be found in the support for Claim 29, in combination with Page 9 lines 10-19.

Thus, the specification of the application, as filed, supports all of the claims filed herein. No new matter is included in the claims.

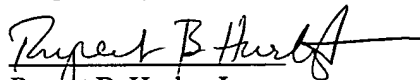
While all of the claims in copending parent application 08/968,016 have been allowed, one of the differences between the independent claims in the instant application and the allowed claims of 08/968,016 is that the claims in the instant application are process claims which recite the steps of:

- (i) wrapping the film longitudinally around a forming shoe with opposing length film sheet edges being overlapped or abutted with one another;
- (ii) sealing the film longitudinally to form a backseam; followed by
- (iii) forwarding the film.

Applicant contends that the pending claims are patentable over EPO 0 334 291, to Vicik ("VICIK") as well as U.S. Patent No. 4,758,463, to Vicik et al ("VICIK et al") because neither VICIK nor VICIK et al discloses a process of making a backseamed casing by wrapping the film longitudinally around a forming shoe and sealing overlapping or abutted edges to one another followed by forwarding the film. Applicant directs attention to the various Examples and Comparative Examples in the Applicant's specification, and particularly to, for example, Page 56 lines 22-29, which discuss the demonstrated importance of the nylon core layer to the backseaming process, i.e., to the importance of the nylon core layer for prevention of the undesirable necking down of the casing on the forming shoe, which is disruptive to the process. As such, Applicant respectfully requests favorable consideration of the pending claims as patentable over VICIK and VICIK et al, with a view towards allowance.

Cryovac, Inc.
P.O. Box 464
Duncan, S.C. 29334
January 17, 2001

Respectfully submitted,


Rupert B. Hurley Jr.
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 29,313
(864) 433-3247